

the administration. This particular change would not affect the expansion of those limits, is that correct, that the subject of difference will be within the conference?

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I would say to the gentleman that, no, this does not have anything to do with that. On that issue, if I could take both HUD and several other parties to the issue and put them in a room and forget about them for 2 years, I would be happy to do that.

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will continue to yield, I would join the gentleman in locking that door until agreement is achieved regarding FHA limit increases.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I have no additional requests for time, but I would like to close by making a couple of limited comments.

I must say that there is little doubt that within some of these accounts that are housing accounts, like vouchers, like subsidized rental housing, like programs that involve the efforts we have to open the doorway of opportunity to the poorest of the poor in our society, we have not had all the money that we would like to have in those accounts. Indeed, this administrative decision by OMB originally did put great pressure upon those elements of the housing accounts.

To now have them change their mind and not have us have the flexibility to apply them, for example, to a great priority of the Secretary of Housing, vouchers, or some other very, very vital housing program, where we are dealing with the poorest of the poor, and shift it to accounts where we are over the President's request in the bill, before the fact, at least causes me to scratch my head, when the ranking member knows how important it is when we go to conference with the Senate to have as much flexibility as possible. By this action we may very well have harmed many of the very poor people in our country that the ranking member at least tells me constantly he is so concerned about.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CALVERT). Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to instruct.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY).

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the motion to instruct and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5, rule I, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 4 of rule XV.

Such rollcall votes, if postponed, will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules.

#### SPEED TRAFFICKING LIFE IN PRISON ACT OF 1998

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3898) to amend the Controlled Substances Act and the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act to conform penalties for violations involving certain amounts of methamphetamine to penalties for violations involving similar amounts cocaine base, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3898

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "Speed Trafficking Life In Prison Act of 1998".*

#### SEC. 2. METHAMPHETAMINE TRAFFICKING PENALTY ADJUSTMENTS.

(a) AMENDMENTS TO THE CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT.—The Controlled Substances Act is amended—

(1) in section 401(b)(1)(A)(viii) (21 U.S.C. 841(b)(1)(A)(viii)) by—

(A) striking "100 grams" and inserting "50 grams"; and

(B) striking "1 kilogram" and inserting "500 grams"; and

(2) in section 401(b)(1)(B)(viii) (21 U.S.C. 841(b)(1)(B)(viii)) by—

(A) striking "10 grams" and inserting "5 grams"; and

(B) striking "100 grams" and inserting "50 grams".

(b) AMENDMENTS TO THE CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES IMPORT AND EXPORT ACT.—The Controlled Substances Import and Export Act is amended—

(1) in section 1010(b)(1)(H) (21 U.S.C. 960(b)(1)(H)) by—

(A) striking "100 grams" and inserting "50 grams";

(B) striking "1 kilogram" and inserting "500 grams"; and

(C) striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(2) in section 1010(b)(2)(H) (21 U.S.C. 960(b)(2)(H)) by—

(A) striking "10 grams" and inserting "5 grams";

(B) striking "100 grams" and inserting "50 grams"; and

(C) striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon.

#### SEC. 3. PREPARATION OF AN IMPACT STATEMENT.

*The United States Sentencing Commission shall prepare a statement analyzing the impact of the sentences imposed as a result of the amendments made by this Act and present that analysis to Congress not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MCCOLLUM) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MCCOLLUM).

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 3898, the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3898, the Speed Trafficking Life In Prison Act of 1998, increases the penalties for manufacturing, trafficking or importing methamphetamine. It was introduced on May 19, 1998 by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS) and reported favorably by the Committee on the Judiciary on July 21. It represents an important step by this Congress to respond to the methamphetamine epidemic.

As members of the subcommittee well know, methamphetamine is no longer merely a California problem or a southwest problem, it is a national problem. It has spread east, devastating some communities much like crack cocaine did in the 1980s. The testimony received by the House Subcommittee on Crime of the Committee on the Judiciary in recent years paints a grim picture of an emerging epidemic: Emergency room methamphetamine episodes in major metropolitan areas have increased dramatically. Methamphetamine deaths around the country have skyrocketed, and clandestine methamphetamine labs have now been reported in all 50 States.

There are numerous unique problems associated with methamphetamine. The profits involved in the methamphetamine trade are enormous. Methamphetamine causes longer highs than cocaine. Methamphetamine is processed in clandestine labs, often located in remote areas, making them difficult to detect. And the numerous highly toxic chemicals used to manufacture methamphetamine are extremely flammable and destructive to the environment.